

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

MAY 13, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 4, 2004, **LORENZO E. LINK**, age 45, of Colp, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine. The violation took place between January 2003, and January 30, 2004, in Colp, Illinois. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The conspiracy charge carries a penalty of between 5-40 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2 million, and a term of at least 4 years' supervised release.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative effort of the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Illinois State Police and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.